Airport express rail link in Hyderabad

*148. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of the request of Andhra Pradesh Government to develop a dedicated airport express rail link from the existing Begumpet Airport to the new Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad;

(b) the details of the said proposal; and

(c) by when this rail link is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An Express Rail Link was proposed between the old Begumpet Airport to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad to offer fast, safe and convenient approach to the passengers. In this regard, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had prepared a Detailed Project Report. The proposal was not found viable by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) in view of huge cost involved and also not convenient to the public. Therefore, the GoAP has taken a decision to go for a comprehensive rail network for the city of Hyderabad including airport at Shamshabad in place of proposed Express Rail Link.

(c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

*149. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to disinvest selected Public Sector Units (PSUs);

(b) whether it is going to maintain the harmony amongst the employees in the PSUs proposed for disinvestment; and

(c) whether there will be consultations prior to virtual disinvestment of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. NHPC Limited, Oil India Limited and RITES Limited had proposed to make public offerings of equity. The Government decided to disinvest a small portion of equity out of its shareholding in these companies in conjunction with their public offerings. The public offerings of NHPC Limited and Oil India Limited are likely to be completed in the current financial year. The public offering of RITES Limited has been deferred for the present by the company due to change in capital requirements of the company.

While considering the recommendations of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises for revival/restructuring of loss making Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) and Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTC), Government approved disinvestment of the two companies.

(b) The policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% and the Government retains the management control of the company.

(c) In all cases of disinvestment, Inter-ministerial consultation are held before taking a decision.

Expansion of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme

*150. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to expand the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme by easing its eligibility norms;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to reduce the age for Below Poverty Level (BPL) persons receiving pension from 65 years to 60 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider extending pension even to widows, destitutes and the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has already introduced in February 2009, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) as components of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). IGNWPS is applicable to BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and IGNDPS is applicable to BPL persons with severe or multiple disabilities in the age group of 18-64 years.

Old Age Pension was earlier granted to destitutes of 65 years or higher under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). In November 2007 Government of India modified the eligibility criteria under NOAPS by relaxing the eligibility criteria from 'one who is 65 years or higher and destitute' to 'one who is 65 years or higher and belonging to a family living below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India'. With the change in eligibility criteria, NOAPS was renamed as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).

Central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary is provided in all the pension schemes.

Residential schools for tribal students

*151. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: